



Philip Lowe  
Director-General DG Energy  
European Commission

B- 1049 Brussels

Ref.: JWG/cb

Brussels, 5 July 2011

Re: EU external energy policy

Dear Mr. Lowe,

The European electricity social dialogue committee which brings together employers and trade union representatives and has been recognized by the European Commission considered the state of play with regard to the preparations of the EU External Energy Policy. The Commission foresees to publish a Communication in September 2011.

The Commission DG Energy was very kind to present the outlines of the policy to the electricity social dialogue committee, 23 June 2011. This was appreciated.

We did notice that the presentation does not refer to the social dimension of the EU external policy. The Committee decided to underline again the importance of the social dimension and that this should be taken into account. The main points of our joint contribution:

- The EU external energy relations and energy dialogues should take account of the values of the overall constitutional framework of the EU and reflect the views of the European Commission underlined in its Communication The Social Dimension of Globalisation - the EU's policy contribution on extending the benefits to all (Com 2004 - 383) emphasizing the need for the EU to build the balance between economic, social and environmental imperatives into its external relations policies.
- DG Energy and Social Partners should seek ways to cooperate in addressing the social dimension of the EU external energy relations.

This includes:

- In the EU external energy relations, the European Commission should take account of the Just Transition and Decent Jobs agenda. This is also part of the Cancun agreement (December 2010) and EU policy;
- The European Commission should recognize the dialogue between the social partners as a valuable contribution in the European and neighbouring countries in shaping the external dimension of the EU energy policy and energy dialogue. As regards the EU side of an energy dialogue this is to involve the European sectoral social dialogue committees;
- Respecting and promoting a high level of health and safety in the work place;
- Evaluating with the relevant social partners the impact on employment and working conditions of developing the energy dialogues.

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- As European social partners we have been actively involved in the Energy Community process. The Memorandum of Understanding on the Social Aspects of the Energy Community is a worthwhile approach that could serve as a model to develop the social dimension and include a social chapter in the energy dialogues and EU external energy relations

We look forward to see this points reflected in the European Commission Communication and we are ready to discuss with you and your staff the above points.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Ruden,  
President of the social dialogue committee electricity (vice-president of the EPSU Utilities Committee)

cc.

- ✓ Emanuele Preiti, Vice-president of the social dialogue committee electricity (Chair of the Eurelectric Social Affairs Work Group)
- ✓ Bernd Frieg, Vice-president of the social dialogue committee electricity (EMCEF delegation to the Social Dialogue Committee)
- ✓ Vladimir Zuberec, DG Employment, social dialogue unit

Encl.: Joint position on social dimension of the EU External Energy Policy



EPSU  
European Federation of  
Public Service Unions  
45 rue Royale, Box 1  
1000 Brussels  
[www.epsu.org](http://www.epsu.org)



EURELECTRIC  
Union of the Electricity Industry  
Boulevard de l'Impératrice 66  
1000 Brussels  
[www.eurelectric.org](http://www.eurelectric.org)



EMCEF  
European Mine, Chemical  
and Energy Workers'  
Federation  
Rue de Trèves 35  
1040 Brussels  
[www.emcef.org](http://www.emcef.org)